

4. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the agent is a peptide.

C1
5. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the peptide is mastoparan or an analog thereof.

C2
8. (Amended) A method for treating septic shock in a subject, wherein the septic shock is endotoxic shock induced by gram positive bacteria, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an agent which binds G protein, to thereby inhibit the interaction of said G protein and CD14, such that septic shock in the subject is treated.

C3
10. (Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising administering an antibiotic to the subject.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 9 have been canceled herein. Claims 2-5, 8 and 10 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-5, 8 and 10 will be pending upon entry of the instant amendment.

Applicants note that in the Advisory Action dated May 28, 2002, the Examiner indicated that although claim 8 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form (page 3 of the Advisory Action). Accordingly, Applicants have re-written claim 8 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, Applicants have amended claims 2-5 and 10 to depend from claim 8. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that claim 8, as well as dependent claims 2-5 and 10 are now in condition for allowance.

No new matter has been added. The amendments to the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and was done solely to expedite the prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the pending claims is attached hereto as Appendix A. Also attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the